

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 00782 111239Z

43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAM-01 OPIC-03 /090 W

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R 111148Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4588

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SP

SUBJ: MOROCCO PROTESTS SPANISH REINFORCEMENT OF ENCLAVES

1. SEMI-OFFICIAL AND OPPOSITION PRESS FEB 11 HEADLINE MOROCCAN PROTEST TO UN AGAINST SPANISH SHOW OF FORCE "IN MOROCCAN TERRITORIAL WATERS" IN SENDING REINFORCEMENTS TO CEUTA AND MELILLA. FONMIN LARAKI ANNOUNCED PROTEST IN RIYADH FEB 9, COMMENTING THAT RETURN OF THE TWO CITIES WOULD NOT HARM SPAIN.

2. MEANWHILE, OPPOSITION PRESS FEB 11 CONTINUES TO GIVE STRONG SUPPORT TO GOM POLICY ON ENCLAVES. ISTIQLAL'S L'OPINION SAW SPANISH MILITARSIOVES AS POISONING SITUATION AND MINIMIZING CHANCES OF FRUITFUL SPANISH-MOROCCAN DIALOGUE. MOROCCAN PEOPLE HAVE NEVER GIVEN IN TO BLACKMAIL AND THREATS, PAPER ASSERTED, AND ARE READY, IF SPAIN PROCEEDS TO DEPLOY ITS FORCES, TO RESPOND WITH A GENERAL MOVEMENT OF POPULAR RESISTANCE.

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PAGE 02 RABAT 00782 111239Z

ISTIQLAL'S ARABIC AL-ALAM HEADLINED THAT SPAIN'S SHOW OF FORCE

DESIGNED TO COVER UP INTERNAL PROBLEMS. UNFP'S MAGHREB INFORMATION EDITORIALY CONDEMNED SPANISH COLONIALISM AND URGED POPULAR MOBILIZATION. ANOTHER PROMINENT PIECE ARGUED THAT MELILLA HAS BEEN MOROCCAN THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES AND FURTHER ITEM PLAYED UP SPANISH INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

3. COMMENT: GOM THUS KEEPING TO HIGH MORAL ROAD IN MEETING SPANISH MILITARY STEPS WITH RESORT TO UN. ALSO, SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS STILL TREATING ENCLAVES ISSUE IN RELATIVELY FACTUAL, LOW KEY MANNER, LEAVING TO OTHERS TO GENERATE MORE MILITANT COMMENTARY. ISTIQLAL'S HEAT IS IN KEEPING WITH PASTT IRREDENTIST PERFORMANCE, BUT UNFP, WHICH GOT OFF TO SLOW START ON SAHARA DISPUTE, SEEMS TO BE MAKING UP FOR IT ON ENCLAVES. (ONLY MAJOR OPPOSITION PAPER NOT PLAYING UP ISSUE IS USFP'S AL-MOHARRIR, WHICH HAS NOT YET TREATED IT EVEN AS NEWS.)

4. LARAKI'S SPECIFIC MENTION OF MOROCCAN TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THIS CONNECTION IS, OF COURSE, CONSISTENT WITH CLAIM TO ENCLAVES BUT AT SAME TIME TOUCHES ON A FURTHER SORE POINT FOR SPAIN.
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